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A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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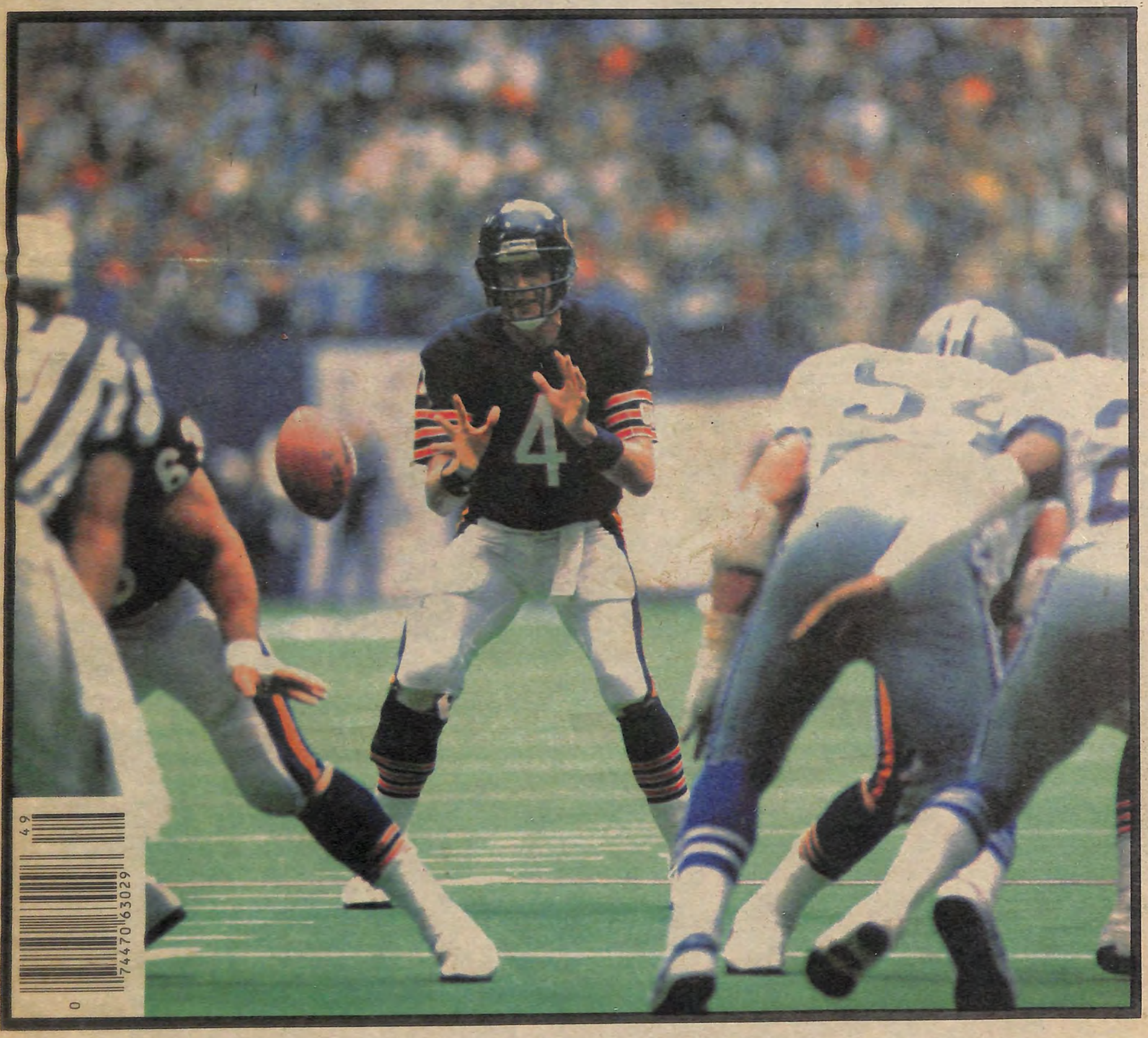

DOUG BUFFONE'S
Chicago BEAR REPORT

A Newspaper Devoted Exclusively
To The Chicago Bears and The NFL

Vol. 10, No. 19 December 5, 1985

On The Cover...

QUARTERBACK Steve Fuller has started four consecutive games in place of injured regular Jim McMahon. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Doug Buffone ..... President/Publisher
Rich Royle ..... Vice President/Business Manager
Frederick Woods ..... Vice President/Advertising
Mark Friedlander ..... Editor
John Weishar ..... General Manager

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Commentary

By
Doug
Buffone

Bears Are Still The Best

Even though the Bears were handily defeated by the Dolphins last Monday night at the Orange Bowl, they have nothing to be ashamed of. The Bears played hard throughout the contest and never gave up despite trailing by 21 points at the half.

The Bears came out firing in the second half and played like the game had started over again. That's the sign of a championship team. Even though many people including yours truly, were starting to believe the Bears could go through the season undefeated, realistically the odds were against it. The Bears may have finally lost a game, but there is no question they are still the best team in the NFL.

MIAMI IS A TOUGH place to play, and it appeared even tougher than usual last Monday night due to the SRO crowd. I've never heard an outdoor stadium so noisy. The Dolphins must tip their helmets to their "12th man".

It is no disgrace to lose to a team like Miami. The Dolphins are still one of the elite teams in the league, and as any football follower knows, when QB Dan Marino gets hot, the greatest defense in the workd is in for a long game.

While Miami may have compiled five touchdowns and a field goal in the 38-24 win, the Bears' defense can't be blamed for letting up all those points. The Bears' special teams play left a lot to be desired and the offense also made a few errors which were costly. Miami is the type of club which takes advantage of all available opportunities and they certainly capitalized plenty of times vs. the Bears.

I REALLY THOUGHT the Bears were going to pull this game out until Mark Clayton caught the touchdown pass which deflected off the helmet of DT Dan Hampton. The defense was playing with fire in its eyes in the second half and it's unfortunate a good play by Hampton turned into the coffin-sealer.

Hopefully Steve Fuller's ankle injury won't keep him out of the lineup too long because he has done an admirable job filling in for Jim McMahon. But it appears McMahon is back at full strength. When Fuller went down with the injury in the fourth quarter, McMahon ran off the bench like a kid on Christmas morning. How many million dollar athletes display that kind of enthusiasm? That's why this guy is the leader of this team.

Of course, I must tip my hat to Walter Payton for setting another NFL record. It would have been a shame if he hadn't gotten his eighth consecutive 100-yard rushing game. But coach Ditka gave him a chance in the closing moments and Payton got it done. This is just another great moment in the career of one of the best players in NFL history.

I pity the poor Indianapolis Colts because the Bears are going to be out for blood next Sunday. I think the Bears will learn quite a few lessons from the Miami loss and will show the Colts who is the king of the NFL. Indy has been having a lot of problems in recent weeks and they have been pathetic on the road. If the weather is bad, the Colts might as well stay home because they are used to playing in a plastic dome. McMahon will probably play the first half of this game and give way to rookie Mike Tomczak in the final two quarters. A lot of the Bear reserves should be able to get valuable playing time in the game.

*****

Doug Buffone's selections for the 14th week of the 1985 season can be found on Page 10 of this issue.

TIGHT END EMERY Moorehead (87) picks up first down yardage after catching a pass from Steve Fuller. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Payton Sets Another Rushing Mark

Winning Streak Ends In a Shootout

By Mark Friedlander
Editor

MIAMI, FL — Not even quarterback Jim McMahon could save the Bears this time.

With 12:47 left in last Monday night's contest at the Orange Bowl, McMahon entered the game after starter Steve Fuller sustained an ankle injury. McMahon had not played for the past four weeks due to tendinitis in his right (throwing) shoulder but he threw the ball with authority vs. the Dolphins. Unfortunately, the four-year veteran out of BYU couldn't get his team into the end zone and the Bears went home a 38-24 loser.

THE DEFEAT IS the Bears' first this season after 12 consecutive victories. But due to a loss by the Los Angeles Rams last Sunday, the Bears are still guaranteed home field advantage throughout the playoffs.

"Monday night games are tough on the Bears," said head coach Mike Ditka. "The Dolphins played very well and they deserved to win. But we can learn from this. I can do a better job defensing people and scoring more points. That's what I learned. They're a good football team. You've got to give them all the credit in the world."

The Bear defense had not allowed a point in the last nine quarters but the Dolphins put 31 points on the board in the first half last Monday night. They scored on all five of their first half possessions and it forced the Bears to play catch-up throughout the contest.

MIAMI QUARTERBACK DAN Marino, who completed 14 of 27 passes for 270 yards and three touchdowns, continually avoided a strong Bear pass rush and connected with his favorite targets, wide receivers Mark Clayton, Mark Duper and Nat Moore.

"Marino must be eating good or something. We didn't think he was that mobile," said DT Steve McMichael.

"Marino was getting outside our containment all day," added LB Mike Singletary. "I don't care how good our corners are. They can't stay with Clayton and Duper all day. You can't hold them for four, five or six seconds."

Continued Page 14

HEAD COACH MIKE Ditka is a bit unhappy following a bad play by the Bears in the first half. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

LINEBACKER OTIS WILSON sacks Miami quarterback Dan Marino. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Bears-Dolphins Official Statistics

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago	7	3	14	0	— 24
Miami	10	21	7	0	— 38

Miami, 1 — Moore 33-yd. pass from Marino (Reveiz kick) 5/56
Chicago, 1 — Fuller 1-yd. run (Butler kick) 4/80
Miami, 1 — FG Reveiz 47-yds. 6/27
Miami, 2 — Davenport 1-yd. run (Reveiz kick) 8/40
Chicago, 2 — FG Butler 30-yds. 15/58
Miami, 2 — Davenport 1-yd. run (Reveiz kick) 8/79
Miami, 2 — Moore 6-yd. pass from Marino (Reveiz kick) 2/6
Chicago, 3 — Fuller 1-yd. run (Butler kick) 5/27
Miami, 3 — Clayton 42-yd. pass from Marino (Reveiz kick) 3/46
Chicago, 3 — Margerum 19-yd. pass from Fuller (Butler kick) 5/49

Weather: Partly cloudy RH 82%, temperature 75 degrees, wind and direction So. 6 mph

Attendance 75,594, tickets distributed 75,594, unused 0, time 3:17

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	Miami
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	23	17
By Rushing	13	6
By Passing	9	8
By Penalty	1	3
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	7-14	6-12
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-0	0-0
TOTAL NET YARDS	343	335
Total Off. Plays (Inc. times passing)	71	54
Av. Gain per Off. Play	4.8	6.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	167	90
Total Rushing Plays	37	24
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	4.5	3.8
NET YARDS PASSING	176	245
Times Thrown — Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	6-35	3-25
Gross Yds. Passing	211	270
PASS ATT. — COMP. — HAD INTERCEPTED	28-14-3	27-14-1
Av. Gain Per Pass Play (Inc. times thrown passing)	5.2	8.2
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	3-29.0	3-44.7
Had Blocked	1	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	153	101
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	2-22	1-4
No. and Yds. KO Returns	4-114	3-91
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	1-17	3-6
PENALTIES -- NO. AND YDS.	7-65	6-61
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	1-1	2-1
TOUCHDOWNS	3	5
Rushing	2	2
Passing	1	3
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	3-3	5-5
FG MADE — ATT.	1-1	1-2
TIME OF POSSESSION	34:08	25:52

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FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Chicago Bears

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Payton	23	121	5.3	15	0
Suhey	7	19	2.7	14	0
Fuller	6	19	3.2	9	2
McMahon	1	8	8.0	8	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Fuller	21	11	169	4/21	1	69	2
Payton	1	0	0	0/0	0	0	0
McMahon	6	3	42	2/14	0	20	1

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Gault	2	79	69	0
Moorehead	4	33	12	0
Payton	2	16	11	0
Wrightman	1	12	12	0
Margerum	4	61	20	1
Gentry	1	10	10	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Frazier	1	17	17	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Buford	2	87	43.5	0	1	51
Team	1	0	0	0	0	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Ortego	2	0	22	12	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Gentry	2	72	50	0
Gault	2	42	21	0

FUMBLES	Fum.	Own Rec.	Yds.	TD	Opp. Rec.
Dent	0	0	0	0	1
Payton	1	0	0	0	0

Miami Dolphins

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Davenport	3	2	0.6	1	2
Bennett	5	12	2.4	5	0
Nathan	15	74	4.9	22	0
Hampton	1	2	2.0	2	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Marino	27	14	270	3/25	3	52	1

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Moore	4	75	33	2
Duper	5	107	52	0
Clayton	5	88	42	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Brudzinski	1	6	6	0
G. Blackwood	1	0	0	0
Judson	1	0	0	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Roby	3	134	44.7	0	1	52

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Vigorito	1	0	4	4	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Hampton	3	91	46	0

FUMBLES	Fum.	Own Rec.	Yds.	TD	Opp. Rec.
Clayton	1	0	0	0	0
Marino	1	0	0	0	0
Giesler	0	1	0	0	0
H. Green	0	0	0	0	1

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS
(Unofficial)
Chicago Bears

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Frazier	4	0	0	0	1	1	0
Duerson	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gayle	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richardson	2	1	0	0	0	2	0
Fencik	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Singletary	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morrissey	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	3	0	1	8	0	0	0
Marshall	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dent	2	0	2	17	0	0	1
Keys	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanders	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thayer	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humphries	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Forced Fumbles: Richardson 1, Dent 1

WIDE RECEIVER KEN Margerum caught 4 passes for 61 yards vs. the Dolphins. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Miami Dolphins

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
McNeal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackwood, L.	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Brown, B.	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lankford	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackwood, G.	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
Judson	4	0	0	0	1	2	0
Shipp	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Brown, M.	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brophy	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Moyer	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Green, H.	4	1	1	5	0	0	1
Bokamper	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnett	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charles	6	0	1	2	0	0	0
Betters	5	0	1	8	0	1	0
Moore, M.	4	0	2	14	0	0	0
Little	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brudzinski	3	0	1	6	1	1	0
Carter	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Davenport	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hardy	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Forced Fumbles: Barnett 1

Wilson Honored

The National Football League has selected linebacker Otis Wilson as the National Conference defensive player of the month for September.

Next Week's Issue

Next week's issue of the **BEAR REPORT** will feature extensive coverage of the Bears-Colts game. It will also include a detailed preview of the upcoming nationally-televised contest vs. the Jets.

Bears Are Never Satisfied

The more the Bears win, the more they appreciate winning.

They always knew it was a good thing to do. They had seen pictures of Super Bowl champions. They had talked to their players. Those guys who were winners always seemed happy about it. Some of the Bears even had been winners themselves in college.

BUT FOR MOST of them, a winning season was like a video recorder. They had heard how nice it was, but they didn't really know how nice until they had one themselves.

"I really think the players understand the essence of winning and losing now," Dan Hampton says. "We were a .500 team for years and years, but now the thing that

By Kevin Lamb

really matters to these guys is making the plays and making sure we get a win each and every week.

"We don't necessarily play the best wire to wire, but the bottom line is, we find a way to win. For many years, Minnesota was so undermanned but they always found a way to win. Dallas was the same way. They'd flop around for three quarters and beat you in the fourth quarter.

"I THINK THIS team has taken the same challenge. We'll rassle with you for three quarters, and when it comes down to the final whistle, we'll be ahead."

In the old days, for example, the Bears were more interested in settling scores than in scoring points. They lost a lot of games that way, but they made sure their opponents hurt too much to laugh.

This year, after the game that kept interrupting the fights at Green Bay, a Packer player said, "We played their kind of game. Now who's crying?" That's the kind of thing Bear players used to say in losing locker rooms.

"I THINK THIS team recognizes in past years, we wouldn't have won games like that," Gary Fencik said. "Our goal now is to win. We can overlook certain things like cheap shots because the bottom line is winning.

"In the past, we had to look at those things as moral victories. That was all we could pull out of games. No one here is talking about moral victories now."

On the other hand, no one talked about a 16-0 season as the victories kept faithfully piling up like Sunday papers. They agreed it would be nice and they agreed it would be hard, but the players didn't bring up the subject. They haven't even mentioned the Super Bowl often. Usually, they have mentioned it only in connection with an undefeated season, as in "I don't get a ring for 16-0," Fencik said that, in case anyone doubted his priority.

WHAT THE PLAYERS talked about was 9-0 and 10-0 and 11-0 and so on, whichever came next. They talked about the Falcons with almost as much respect as they talked about the Cowboys. The big game always has been the next one.

"They don't assume anything," coach Mike Ditka has said often. He sees to that.

Plainly, it hasn't seemed to dawn on the Bears that they're the best team in the NFL.

"THAT COCKINESS IS not here that you'd expect on a 10-0 team," cornerback Leslie Frazier says. "I think we all realize how fleeting that fame can be if we don't keep winning."

It was only two years ago, remember, that the Bears' record was 3-7, not 10-0. So the players have kept their up-from-hungry mindset, like a guy who keeps riding the subway after striking oil. It seemed they felt they had to struggle through a 16-0 season and a Super Bowl championship to prove they're no longer doormats.

When they talked about playing at Dallas, they talked about the "opportunity." Never mind that Dallas was 7-3 and the Bears were 10-0. Dallas has been part of the NFL's elite. The Bears probably were there anyway, but this was their opportunity to show they belonged there.

THEY WERE CURIOUS. Their passing offense had struggled for more than a month, compared to the first six games. Their defense had turned around from its troublesome beginning, but coordinator Buddy Ryan was telling

Continued Next Page

QUARTERBACK STEVE FULLER (4) had some problems with Miami's pass rush last Monday night. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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The Bears are hot after clinching their second consecutive NFC Central title and now have their sights set on the Super Bowl at New Orleans!

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Never Satisfied

Continued From Page 5

the defenders, "We don't have anything to be cocky about. We're still trying to prove this is a good defensive team." The week after they shredded Dallas like a head of cabbage, Ryan said the defense was about as good as the 1979 defense.

"We're not as good as we will be," middle linebacker Mike Singletary said.

They weren't where they wanted to be on the calendar, either. The playoffs haven't even begun.

LAST YEAR, THE Bears set their sights on winning the NFC Central Division. They didn't quit after doing that, but they thought of everything extra as an unexpected bonus, like a fruit basket in a hotel room.

When they reached the NFC Championship Game at San Francisco, they were as surprised as anyone. **My, isn't this nice. One game away from the Super Bowl. Imagine that.**

"Last year, we kind of stumbled into it," guard Mark Bortz says. "We didn't realize exactly where we were. By the time we got to San Francisco, it was too late to see how close we were to really accomplishing something. Nobody wants to take a chance that we'll throw it away if we get there again."

THIS YEAR, THE Bears think of the Super Bowl as part of the season, like the phone in a hotel room. They'll feel deprived without it.

"It's like the guys know they have a mission, and it's not just to go 16-0," Frazier says. "Whatever you do in the regular season, it's not important unless you win the Super Bowl."

They plan to do that. They're hungry, not humble. In fact, one of the reasons they've been inviting targets for fights and cheap shots is they've felt good enough to say flatly they were better than several opponents. Their assessments filled bulletin boards in Minnesota, Tampa and Green Bay.

THEY WERE BEATING people and offending them, too. "We weren't so offensive a couple years ago when we were 3-6," Ditka said. It wasn't much fun to be the harmless butts of jokes. The Bears remember. Earlier this season, Gary Fencik kept talking about all the IOUs they had to call back, starting with San Francisco for last year's championship game and working back.

What appears as cockiness is more a pent-up anger. After swallowing pride for so long, the Bears are ready to spit venom.

"Let'em get ticked off," linebacker Otis Wilson says. "We can get ticked off, too. The way we get ticked off is with our helmets. We shut down a team's offense."

WITH EACH WIN, there is a more obvious blend of cockiness that comes from winning and insecurity that comes from knowing it hasn't been enough. The roster make-up, with most players starting at least three seasons but playing no more than seven, breeds experienced confidence and youthful hunger.

It adds up to focusing on one game each week because they're afraid not to. Then winning it, as they knew they would, adding them up at the end and daring anyone to match them.

"We'll talk about how good we are when it's all over," Hampton says. "Any time you worry about looking in the rear-view mirror more than looking in the windshield, that's when you're going to run off the road.

"If you start patting yourself on the back, you've only got one hand to play with. That's when you've got problems. We'll just take a shutout here, a sack there, and do what we have to do."

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Full Speed Ahead to the Playoffs

How should the Bears approach the final three games of the season, beginning Sunday against the Indianapolis Colts at Soldier Field?

They clinched the division title at Dallas and the home field advantage for the playoffs two weeks ago. What's left?

ANY TEAM IN this position will strive to maintain the winning edge it has had all year. That kind of team tries to avoid a serious injury to a key player without letting down its guard. It tries to sidestep a careless approach to its remaining games.

The Bears must work hard to stay hungry for what the coming playoffs could bring without taking unnecessary

By Dick Gonski

chances. That's a delicate balance to maintain five weeks before the first playoff game at Soldier Field.

In a recent interview, Dan Hampton touched on part of the solution to this dilemma. "We're playing against ourselves now and against our team goals for 1985," he said. "Our goals are important to us as a unit. Gerald Riggs got his 100 yards against us (Riggs had 110 yards on 30 carries in the Bears' 36-0 victory two weeks ago) and we were disappointed."

THAT DEMONSTRATES HOW this team thinks about itself. It's a team driven by pride in one another and in the team as a whole. It's almost impossible to think this team will suffer a letdown in these final three games. For this Bear team, it would be counterproductive to give less than 100 percent. Mike Ditka would be wise not to try to harness them now. He should just let them play.

Any good athlete will agree injuries frequently take place when a player is letting up. Ditka realizes his players are goal-oriented and would be foolish to intrude on the pursuit of those goals. For the most part, this is a team of young veterans who know finishing the season on a uptick is the way to go into the playoffs.

It's important for the coaching staff to approach these games with an eye on the walking wounded. Ditka must be careful with Jim McMahon, Matt Suhey and Dan Hampton. All three are highly competitive athletes who will play unless they are told not to, either by the medical staff or by Ditka himself. Iron Mike would love to test McMahon's ailing shoulder by allowing him to regain his sharpness before playoff time. But if McMahon re-injures the shoulder by coming back too soon, it's unlikely he would be available for the playoffs.

THE BEARS MUST be allowed to finish strong without going 60 minutes with the regulars. Play them full tilt but don't play them into the ground. It's been a fabulous season and the guys could use a rest. Players like Tyrone Keys, Dennis Gentry, Ron Rivera and Ken Taylor could use some game time, perhaps a quarter each week, to stay sharp and ready to step in if someone goes down.

After Sunday's game with the Colts, the Bears play the Jets and Lions on the road. There should be no problem getting up for the Jets and a game at the Silverdome is always a war. Remember when Ditka ordered Dave Duerson to go after Lions' kicker Eddie Murray? That nearly started World War III.

The Bears represent the class of the league now and they've got to expect to get the special effort from opponents who look forward to knocking off No. 1. The Jets and Lions will be ready for the Bears, so don't expect a tea party in either game. That motivation alone could be just what the Bears need as they approach the playoffs. And you can bet both Dallas and San Francisco would love to get another shot at the Bears, so this is exactly what the Bears need going into the playoffs.

THE BEARS HAVE not played a home playoff game since 1963. Fans of the team have gone from praying for at least one home game to wondering if the Bears would be able to host two of them. That's enormous progress in one year.

The Bears are in a perfect position heading for the playoffs. Two road tests to end the regular season will toughen them. They have the type of proud team spirit that will not succumb to a letdown. Most of all, they believe this is their year and they intend to go out that way.

Clinching the playoffs so early could adversely effect some teams but not this one. They relish their role as the king of the hill and they carry Ditka's chip on their shoulders.

PERHAPS THE MOST important asset the Bears have at this time is the coaching staff. Not their individual talents necessarily, but certainly their personalities. Mike Ditka and Buddy Ryan were here in the lean years. To them this is "payback time." Both are intense competitors who have chewed out this team even after big wins, but always behind closed doors. They have not allowed this team to acquire a larger hat size through the success of the 1985 season. Their standards are the highest and they settle for nothing less.

That's why this Bears' team won't have problems with attitude in these final three games. After all, this isn't the end of the season. It's the beginning of the most promising post-season in 22 years. They'll be ready.

QUARTERBACK *JIM McMAHON* entered in the game in the fourth quarter after starter Steve Fuller sustained an ankle injury. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Indy Colts' Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
2	Raul Allegre	K	5-10	161	26	3	Texas
3	Rohn Stark	P	6-3	202	26	4	Florida State
12	Matt Kofler	QB	6-3	192	26	4	San Diego St.
18	Mike Pagel	QB	6-2	207	25	4	Arizona St.
20	Albert Bentley	RB	5-11	207	25	R	Miami
25	Nesby Glasgow	S	5-10	188	28	7	Washington
27	Preston Davis	CB	5-11	173	23	2	Baylor
32	Randy McMillan	FB	6-0	212	26	5	Pittsburgh
34	George Wonsley	HB	6-0	217	24	2	Mississippi St.
35	Tate Randle	S	6-0	199	26	4	Texas Tech
36	Don Anderson	CB	5-10	185	22	R	Purdue
37	Anthony Young	SS	5-11	187	22	R	Temple
38	Eugene Daniel	CB	5-11	181	24	2	Louisiana St.
42	Keith Lee	DB	5-11	193	27	5	Colorado St.
44	Owen Gill	FB	6-1	230	23	R	Iowa
47	Leonard Coleman	CB	6-2	208	23	R	Vanderbilt
50	Duane Bickett	LB	6-5	241	22	R	Southern Cal
53	Ray Donaldson	C	6-4	274	27	6	Georgia
55	Barry Krauss	LB	6-3	246	28	7	Alabama
56	Lamonte Hunley	LB	6-2	232	22	R	Arizona
57	Dave Ahrens	LB	6-3	247	26	5	Wisconsin
59	Orlando Lowry	LB	6-4	234	24	R	Ohio State
61	Don Bailey	C	6-4	259	24	2	Miami
64	Ben Utt	OG	6-5	276	26	4	Georgia Tech
66	Ron Solt	OG	6-3	273	23	2	Maryland
68	Willie Broughton	DE	6-5	245	21	R	Miami
71	Kevin Call	OT	6-7	283	23	2	Colorado St.
72	Karl Baldischwiler	OT	6-5	273	29	7	Oklahoma
74	Roger Caron	OT	6-5	270	23	R	Harvard
75	Chris Hinton	G	6-4	289	24	3	Northwestern
80	Ricky Nichols	WR	5-10	180	23	R	East Carolina
81	Pat Beach	TE	6-4	242	25	3	Washington St.
83	Keli McGregor	TE	6-6	250	22	R	Colorado State
84	Mark Boyer	TE	6-4	233	23	R	Southern Cal
86	Oliver Williams	WR	6-3	191	25	1	Illinois
87	Wayne Capers	WR	6-2	193	24	3	Kansas
88	Robbie Martin	WR	5-8	177	26	5	Cal Poly-SLO
91	Byron Smith	DE	6-5	272	22	2	California
92	Brad White	DT	6-2	253	27	5	Tennessee
93	Cliff Odom	LB	6-2	236	27	5	Tex.-Arlington
94	Scott Virkus	DE	6-5	279	26	2	S. Francisco CC
95	Chris Scott	DE	6-5	271	23	2	Purdue
98	Johnie Cooks	LB	6-4	241	26	4	Mississippi St.
99	Donnell Thompson	DE	6-5	262	26	5	North Carolina

Head Coach: Rod Dowhower

Assistants: Tom Lovat, John Becker, George Catavolos, George Hill, Billie Matthews, Chip Meyers, Keith Rowen, Steve Sidwell, Rick Venturi, Tom Zupancic.

PUNTER ROHN STARK

Special to the BEAR REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — When Rod Dowhower left the St. Louis Cardinals to become the head coach of the Colts earlier this year, he knew his job wouldn't be easy. The Colts had been a non-factor in the AFC East race for years and it would take more than a miracle to make this once-proud franchise a contender.

Dowhower, who turned Neil Lomax into one of the best quarterbacks in the league when he was the Cardinals' offensive coordinator, was faced with an offensive problem right off the bat. He couldn't decide which of his veteran quarterbacks to start, Mike Pagel or Art Schlichter. He thought he solved the problem early in the season when he placed Schlichter on waivers. But Pagel obviously wasn't the answer because he turned to Matt Kofler by the time the 11th game rolled around.

KOFLER BOMBED OUT in that contest, a 20-7 loss to the lowly Chiefs, so Dowhower turned back

Continued Page 10

Chicago Bears' Numerical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	28	7	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	204	23	R	Georgia
8	Maury Buford	P	6-0	181	25	4	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	25	4	BYU
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	22	R	Ohio St.
21	Leslie Frazier	CB	6-0	187	26	5	Alcorn St.
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	24	3	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	23	2	Ohio St.
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	27	6	Penn St.
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	24	3	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	26	4	Baylor
31	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	23	R	Texas A&M
31	Ken Taylor	CB	6-1	185	21	R	Oregon St.
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	25	4	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	11	Jackson St.
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	31	10	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	24	R	S. Methodist
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	26	5	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	22	R	Michigan St.
52	Cliff Thrift	LB	6-1	230	29	7	E.C. Oklahoma
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	27	6	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G-C	6-4	261	23	R	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	23	2	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	23	2	California
60	Tom Andrews	OL	6-4	267	24	2	Louisville
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	24	3	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	26	5	Iowa
70	Henry Waechter	DT	6-5	275	26	4	Nebraska
71	Andy Frederick	T	6-6	265	31	9	New Mexico
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	325	22	R	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstine	DE	6-3	254	32	11	Pennsylvania St.
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	25	3	Pittsburgh
75	Stefan Humphries	G	6-3	263	23	2	Michigan
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	27	6	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	280	27	5	USC
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	25	R	UCLA
82	Ken Margerum	WR	6-0	180	26	4	Stanford
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-0	178	24	3	Tennessee
85	Dennis McKinnon	WR	6-1	185	23	3	Florida St.
86	Brad Anderson	WR	6-2	198	24	2	Arizona
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	31	9	Colorado
89	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	180	22	R	McNeese St.
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	24	3	Tennessee St.
98	Tyrone Keys	DE	6-7	267	25	3	Mississippi St.
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	27	7	Arkansas

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Dale Haupt, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazor, Jim LaRue, Ted Plumb, Johnny Roland, Buddy Ryan, Dick Stanfel.

C Ray Donaldson

SS Nesby Glasgow

LB Barry Krauss

FB Randy McMillan

DE Donnell Thompson

LINEBACKER WILBER MARSHALL (58) tackles Colt running back Randy McMillan during last August's game at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

QUARTERBACK MIKE PAGEL (18) gets good protection during last summer's Bears-Colts preseason battle. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Indianapolis vs. Chicago Lineups

Colts' Offense

WR	86 Oliver Williams, 80 Ricky Nichols
LT	75 Chris Hinton, 71 Kevin Call
LG	64 Ben Utt, 74 Roger Caron
C	53 Ray Donaldson, 61 Don Bailey
RG	66 Ron Solt, 74 Roger Caron
RT	72 Karl Baldischwiler, 71 Kevin Call
TE	81 Pat Beach, 84 Mark Boyer
WR	88 Robbie Martin, 87 Wayne Capers
QB	18 Mike Pagel, 12 Matt Kofler
FB	32 Randy McMillan, 44 Owen Gill
HB	34 George Wonsley

Bears' Offense

WR	83 Willie Gault, 82 Ken Margerum
LT	74 Jim Covert, 71 Andy Frederick
LG	62 Mark Bortz, 57 Tom Thayer
C	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 60 Tom Andrews
RG	57 Tom Thayer, 75 Stefan Humphries
RT	78 Keith Van Horne, 71 Andy Frederick
TE	87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman
RB	34 Walter Payton, 29 Dennis Gentry
FB	26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas
QB	9 Jim McMahon, 4 Steve Fuller
WR	85 Dennis McKinnon, 86 Brad Anderson

Colts' Defense

LE	99 Donnell Thompson, 94 Scott Virkus
NT	92 Brad White, 68 Willie Broughton
RE	91 Byron Smith, 95 Chris Scott
LOLB	98 Johnie Cooks, 59 Orlando Lowry
LILB	93 Cliff Odom, 56 LaMonte Hunley
RILB	55 Barry Krauss, 57 Dave Ahrens
ROLB	50 Duane Bickett, 59 Orlando Lowry
LCB	27 Preston Davis, 42 Keith Lee
RCB	38 Eugene Daniel, 42 Keith Lee
SS	25 Nesby Glasgow, 47 Leonard Coleman
FS	37 Anthony Young, 35 Tate Randle

Bears' Defense

LE	99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstine
LT	76 Steve McMichael, 72 William Perry
RT	72 William Perry, 99 Dan Hampton
RE	95 Richard Dent, 98 Tyrone Keys
LLB	55 Otis Wilson, 51 Jim Morrissey
MLB	50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera
RLB	58 Wilber Marshall, 59 Ron Rivera
SS	22 Dave Duerson, 23 Shaun Gayle
FS	45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle
LC	27 Mike Richardson, 48 Reggie Phillips
RC	21 Leslie Frazier, 31 Ken Taylor

Colts' Specialists

P	3 Rohn Stark
K	2 Raul Allegre
H	3 Rohn Stark
PR	88 Robbie Martin, 37 Anthony Young
KR	88 Robbie Martin, 20 Albert Bentley
PC	81 Pat Beach, 61 Don Bailey, 53 Ray Donaldson
KC	53 Ray Donaldson, 81 Pat Beach, 61 Don Bailey

Bears' Specialists

PK	6 Kevin Butler
P	8 Maury Buford
PC	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 57 Tom Thayer
KC	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 57 Tom Thayer
H	4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak
PR	31 Ken Taylor, 85 Dennis McKinnon
KR	83 Willie Gault, 29 Dennis Gentry

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Colts

Continued From Page 8

to Pagel. In last Sunday's 38-31 loss to the Patriots, Pagel completed 15 of 28 passes for 174 yards and a touchdown but was intercepted twice. While the Colts gave the Patriots a good fight, the game turned out to be the club's fifth consecutive loss. Indianapolis has lost seven out of its last eight games and currently posts a 3-10 record. The team's players are obviously not looking forward to coming to Chicago next Sunday to face the Bears.

"We're making progress, but, boy, it is really painful at times, and it's going a lot slower than we would like," Dowhower said after the loss to New England. "Sometimes it seems we are trying so hard that it works against us."

One player, who according to Dowhower was lacking in the effort department, is running back Curtis Dickey. The six-year veteran, who had been one of the most productive members of the Indy offense in recent years, was cut last week.

"**LET ME PUT IT** this way: there's givers and takers, and there's winners and losers," said Dowhower. "You want people who give what they have and do the best they can. His injury (knee) kept him back, but his attitude toward practices made me believe he didn't want to give what he had."

Due to his injury, Dickey had rushed for only 34 yards on nine carries. The Indy rushing attack is led by Randy McMillan (599 yards) and Otis Wonsley (581).

When Pagel is on target, he usually gets the ball to Wonsley (26 for 234), TE Pat Beach (24 for 260), or WR Ray Butler (19 for 345).

The Colts' defensive leaders include linebackers Cliff Odom (93 solo tackles), Barry Krauss (90) and Duane Bickett (67). Defensive ends Chris Scott and Scott Virkus share the team's sack lead with five each. The Colts have only intercepted 12 passes. Cornerback Eugene Daniel leads the team with six.

One of the bright spots concerning the Colts is their kicking game. Punter Rohn Stark leads the league with a 46.2 average and he also has enough career attempts to qualify as the all-time NFL punt leader. Placekicker Raul Allegre has connected on 14 of 21 field goal attempts. Former Lion Robbie Martin is averaging 20.7 on kickoff returns and 11.2 on punt returns.

TV, Radio Coverage

Next Sunday's Bears-Colts game will be televised in many parts of the country as the first half of an NBC-TV doubleheader. It will be carried in the Chicago-area on WMAQ-TV (Channel 5). The game will also be broadcast throughout the midwest via the WGN (720) Bears' Radio Network.

Doug's Picks

BEARS by SIXTEEN over COLTS
Pity poor Indianapolis.

CHIEFS by FOUR over FALCONS
A real thriller!

REDSKINS by FOUR over EAGLES
Philly has thrown in the towel.

BENGALS by THREE over COWBOYS
Cincy can be good at times.

PATRIOTS by SIX over LIONS
New England looks tough to beat.

PACKERS by THREE over DOLPHINS
Green Bay prays for another blizzard.

SAINTS by SIX over CARDINALS
Wade Phillips has the Saints pumped up.

JETS by SEVEN over BILLS
N.Y. needs this one bad.

BRONCOS by THREE over RAIDERS
Denver wants bad weather.

GIANTS by SIX over OILERS
N.Y. bounces back from tough loss.

VIKINGS by THREE over BUCCANEERS
Minny has come alive.

BROWNS by FOUR over SEAHAWKS
Cleveland is in line for AFC Central title.

CHARGERS by FIVE over STEELERS
San Diego can surprise people.

49ERS by TEN over RAMS
L.A. is fading away.

Last week's record: 3-11 vs. final line. (21.4%)
Actual winners: 8 out of 14 (57.1%)
Season record: 85-95 vs. final line. (47.2%)
Actual winners: 118 out of 180 (65.5%)
NOTE: Doug makes his picks before the opening lines are announced.

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Fuller Proves the Value Of a Good Back-Up QB

Winning spoils fans more than it satisfies them. Instead of enjoying it, they expect it.

Fans often seem bent on obscuring the moment by worrying about tomorrow. They still wonder, for instance, why Walter Payton plays late in a game when the score is lopsided. Might get hurt. Why don't they just appreciate every minute they set to watch him? He hasn't been hurt for 11 years. Hasn't he established a pattern?

THE SCOREBOARD LIGHTS in Dallas were still warm when Chicago fans getting onto an airplane were heard to complain: "They can get somebody better than Fuller."

Steve Fuller had just played quarterback when the Bears handed the Cowboys the worst loss in their history, 44-0.

Since no other quarterback ever had played in a bigger victory over Dallas, one had to wonder just where the fans thought the Bears might pick up "somebody better." Or, why they thought "somebody better" was necessary.

SURE, FULLER DIDN'T have a whole lot to do with the defense grabbing a 17-0 lead. And he was on the bench when rookie third-stringer Mike Tomczak handed off for the final two touchdowns.

This is the point: when a supporting cast of defense and offense and special teams is doing its job, the quarterback automatically becomes "somebody better."

By Don Pierson

The quarterback is the most important player on any football team, which is not to say he is the only important player. If the surrounding cast fails to support him, the quarterback doesn't even have a chance to be the most important player.

THIS IS WHAT coach Mike Ditka has been trying to say all year. When Al Harris and Todd Bell went unsigned, Ditka said they would be competently replaced. He was right. When Jim McMahon went down, Ditka had confidence in Fuller.

For Chicago fans to yearn for "somebody better" exposes short memories if not a shortage of brains.

Anyone paying attention for the last 20 or 30 years might have noticed Chicago is not exactly the cradle of quarterbacks. To be blessed with more than one at the same time who can win a football game should cause the entire city to drop to its knees and hum the Bear fight song to the heavens.

FULLER IS THE first to admit the Bears want and need Jim McMahon at quarterback before Steve Fuller. "That's why he's No. 1 and I'm No. 2," said Fuller.

But Fuller's success over two years has demonstrated two things: that the second-string quarterback almost invariably is going to play; and if he has a good supporting cast, he can probably win.

"If you look at the last few years, you have to figure the backup quarterback is going to play. If anyone takes every snap, it's highly unusual," said Fuller.

THAT IS AS TRUE as ever this year. The National Football League should institute "The Earl Morrall Award" for the backup quarterback of the season.

Almost every team already has a candidate.

Backup quarterbacks are less than a heartbeat away. Vice-presidents would like to be so important. Of the 28 quarterbacks who opened the season, only Denver's John Elway, the New York Jets' Ken O'Brien, the New York Giants' Phil Simms, Miami's Dan Marino, Minnesota's Tommy Kramer, St. Louis' Neil Lomax, Seattle's David Krieg and Detroit's Eric Hipple started every game through 12 weeks and survived virtually intact. All the rest were knocked out by injury at one time or another except Buffalo's Vince Ferragamo, Tampa Bay's Steve DeBerg, and Cincinnati's Ken Anderson, who were benched healthy.

PHILADELPHIA'S RON Jaworski started the season, was benched healthy, came back, and then missed some time with a bruised shoulder. Until he suffered a broken leg late last season, Jaworski had started 116 games in a row, believed to be a record for quarterbacks.

Lomax had started 39 in a row through 12 weeks to hold the current streak.

Through 12 games, Simms was the only one to have taken every snap.

Morrall was player of the year in 1968 when he subbed for Johnny Unitas and took the Baltimore Colts to Super Bowl III. In 1972, Morrall played quarterback for 10 weeks in place of injured Bob Griese during the Miami Dolphins' perfect season.

DID THAT MEAN Morrall was as good as Unitas or Griese? No. But it did prove that the Colts and Dolphins were good enough to win with more than one quarterback. Were they good enough to win with any quarterback? No. Morrall was a good second-string quarterback. So is Fuller.

Second-string quarterbacks are not easy to find. If teams could "find somebody better," they would. If there were 100 good quarterbacks in America, there might still be more than one league playing at a time. Quarterbacks don't hang around street corners begging to take teams to Super Bowls. More quarterbacks are made than born.

"I feel bad for Bob Avellini and how everybody said he was lousy for 10 years," said safety Gary Fencik. "It was more than the quarterback situation. We didn't have the same scheme and we didn't have a complementing cast."

"It has a lot to do with the rest of the guys. A whole lot," said Fuller.

FULLER'S STRENGTH IS in recognizing the rest of the guys can carry him if he allows that to happen.

"The defense knows with Steve in there, he's not going to make a lot of mistakes and put us in a hole," said defensive tackle Steve McMichael.

"For a quarterback, he has a surprisingly low-key ego," said Fencik. "He's intelligent and he doesn't throw interceptions. He's not risk-oriented."

THE INJURIES TO McMahon are not unusual. Defenses are blitzing quarterbacks onto injury lists every-

Continued Next Page

RUNNING BACK WALTER Payton (34) takes the handoff from quarterback Steve Fuller. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Bears' Cumulative Stats

THIRTEEN-GAME TOTALS

TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	Opp.
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	281	193
TOTAL NET YARDS	4808	3418
Avg. Per Game	369.8	262.9
NET YARDS PASSING	2527	2341
Avg. Per Game	194.4	180.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	2281	1077
Avg. Per Game	175.5	82.8
PENALTIES/YARDS	86-763	105-849
FUMBLES/BALLS LOST	21-14	23-13
TOUCHDOWNS	44	20

SCORE BY PERIODS

	1	2	3	4	OT	Ttl.
Bears	61	131	103	88	—	383
Opponents	44	74	24	23	—	165

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Payton	253	1306	5.16	40	8
Suhey	92	385	4.2	17	1
McMahon	36	183	5.1	19	2
Gentry	24	111	4.6	21	2
Sanders	25	104	4.2	28	1
Thomas	25	98	3.9	17	3
Fuller	23	73	3.2	13	5

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Payton	42	340	8.1	33	2
McKinnon	27	491	18.2	48	7
Suhey	27	241	8.9	35	1
Moorehead	30	417	13.9	25	1
Gault	25	503	20.1	70	1
Wrightman	19	352	18.5	49	0
Margerum	15	172	11.5	20	1

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Int.
McMahon	237	139	58.6	1838	13	8
Fuller	106	53	50.0	775	1	4
Tomczak	5	3	60.0	45	0	0
Payton	4	2	50.0	46	1	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

PLAYER	Ttl.	S	A	PD	FR	Int.	SK
Fencik	95	79	16	10	1	5	0
Singletary	97	78	19	5	2	1	3
Marshall	65	49	16	4	1	4	5
Duerson	51	46	5	8	0	4	2
Wilson	51	42	9	4	1	3	8.5
Frazier	46	40	6	16	0	6	0
McMichael	41	36	5	1	1	0	8
Dent	29	25	4	7	1	2	12
Richardson	29	26	3	20	0	3	0
Hampton	28	23	5	2	3	0	0
Perry	22	19	3	0	0	0	4
Hartenstine	19	15	4	1	0	0	1
Gayle	17	15	2	0	1	0	0

League Rankings

After 12 weeks of regular season play, the Bears' defense ranked first in the NFL in least yards allowed. It ranked 1st against the rush and 7th against the pass. The unit also led the NFL in least points allowed (127).

The Bears' offense ranked fourth in the NFL. It led the league in rushing and ranked 17th passing. The unit also led the NFL in points scored (359) and average possession time (33:56). The Bears also led the NFL in turnover differential with a mark of plus-20.

In individual categories, QB Jim McMahon led the NFC in passing with a 89.7 rating. Placekicker Kevin Butler led the NFL in scoring with 107 points. Willie Gault ranked second in kickoff returns with a 28.4 average.

Running back Walter Payton ranked second in NFC rushing with 1,185 yards. Punter Maury Buford ranked fourth with a 42.9 average. DE Richard Dent was tied for sixth in sacks with 10. CB Leslie Frazier was tied for fifth in interceptions with five.

Perry On Hope Show

Entertainer Bob Hope came to Chicago this week to tape a segment of "The Bob Hope Christmas Show" featuring William "Refrigerator" Perry. The show will air on NBC-TV on December 15.

Team Photo Update

All **BEAR REPORT** subscribers who ordered under the terms of the FREE PHOTO OFFER will receive their Bears' four-color team photos in a few weeks. There has been a slight delay in the processing of the team photos due to the mass amount of subscription orders the **BEAR REPORT** has received in recent weeks.

Back-Up QB

Continued From Page 11

where. The sickening sight of Joe Theismann's broken leg on Monday night football in Washington was a grim reminder of the position's vulnerability.

"No question, quarterbacks are getting hit more," said Ditka. "Even when they aren't sacked, they're taking a lot of hits. Sometimes the hits are worse than the sacks because you don't see them coming."

Instead of sitting back and accepting rules changes that made offense easier, defenses are striking back. They are gambling that their blitzes will get to the quarterback before the quarterback can find his receiver.

WHEN THE DEFENSE wins the gamble, the offense can only hope the backup quarterback has better luck than Gary Hogeboom had with the Cowboys two weeks ago. The Bears knocked out Danny White twice and intercepted Hogeboom's second and third passes to set up touchdowns in the 44-0 rout.

On the other side of the field, Fuller was on his way to guiding the Bears to their second consecutive NFC Central Division title. He was the quarterback in 1984 when the Bears won their first against the Vikings.

"Might be a good trivia question in about 15 years," said Fuller.

Can fans remember that long?

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Bears' Mania a Nationwide Epidemic

Bears mania is upon us as perhaps never before. The team's Lake Forest headquarters is teeming with members of the news media clamoring for interviews.

Those of us in the press corps who are veteran Bear-watchers look with wonder at the wave after wave of media types overrunning the press room, which is frequently SRO. Who, we ask each other, ARE these people?

Head coach Mike Ditka has daily meetings with the media and in former times there often would be four of five regulars. Now there's a roomful of reporters, especially from television.

FANS LITERALLY MILL around Halas Hall in all kinds of weather to get glimpses of or autographs from players. One day last week a police car was noticed stationed in front of Halas Hall.

By Michael Haggerty

There was no movement from the car until William Perry (who may well be this year's Clara "Where's the Beef" Peller) exited Halas Hall. Out of the squad car stepped a beaming Lake Forest police officer . . . to get Perry's autograph.

Halas Hall — which is increasingly becoming the site of "cut-ins" on local television news programs — is located on the periphery of Lake Forest College. There have been so many news media vehicles clogging up the Bears' parking lot as of late that to get a parking spot you frequently must park in the campus lot proper.

SOME BEARS' STAFFERS won't go out to eat these days because they don't want to come back from lunch and no longer have their parking places.

The telephones in the Bears' offices ring non-stop. The fan mail is flowing in in record numbers — thousands of letters a week. A third pressbox will be built for the media in the south end of Soldier Field for the playoffs. Everybody, it would seem, loves a winner.

The appetites of Bears' fans appear to be insatiable. They just can't get enough of the Bears. In days gone by an appearance fee for a player averaged around $500, except for the biggest stars. Now the median payment is upwards of $800.

PERRY HAD BEEN getting $1,000, but the demand for him has escalated so intensely that his agent, in an effort to discourage the tremendous influx of requests, set a new amount of what was thought to be an outrageous $5,000.

Undaunted, some people are agreeing to meet that price, so the Fridge is still showing up at select functions around town. Jim McMahon agreed to do a pair of one-hour shopping center appearances for $2,000 each recently and the response at the first venue was overwhelming; more than 10,000 excited fans turned out. McMahon, quite overwhelmed himself, promptly canceled the second mall stint.

In early November Bears fans took over the bar of the hotel where the team stayed in Green Bay on the eve of the game with the Packers. "Bear Down, Chicago Bears" was sung loudly, lustily and often, a feat unheard of in other times in what used to be called "Titletown, USA."

IN MID-NOVEMBER when the Bears arrived at their Dallas hotel there were so many rabid fans that the lobby had to be roped off so the players would not be mobbed. In Mike Ditka's recollection, this is the first time this has ever happened to a Bears team.

By half-time against the Cowboys it was obvious the Bears were in total command of the football game and the knowledgeable fans at Texas Stadium actually applauded and cheered good plays by the Chicago team.

After the game as the Bears' team bus was making its way from the stadium to the airport, a car came speeding up on the left and a jubilant Bears fan was hanging out the window of the car.

THE FAN WAS madly waving a Bears puppet in one hand and he was making a "we're number one" sign with the other hand. This time it was the players' turn to cheer.

There were several hundred people waiting for the Bears to arrive at O'Hare Field after clinching the division title in Dallas. Because of the darkness it was impossible for the fans waiting outside the team parking area to see which members of the Bears' traveling party were in the cars driving by, but many fans took pictures of those passing cars just the same.

DEFENSIVE END RICHARD Dent (95) scoops up a fumble forced by cornerback Mike Richardson. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

"Sports bars," which have come into vogue the last decade or so, book players and often are the sites of Bears-flavored radio shows. And chances are that your favorite broadcast or telecast outlet features a certain Bears player in some form or other on a regular basis.

THE BIGGEST (AND this columnist uses the word advisedly) single phenomenon on the Bears scene these days remains, of course, William Perry, who has also attracted a shopping center crowd estimated at 10,000. He's been the recipient of the most bizarre question in a season which has seen more than its share of bizarre questions of Bears players.

Omni Magazine was interested in the Fridge's views on the concept of male pregnancy. The Bears PR office declined to pass along that bit of strangeness.

One request of Perry that was honored was an interview with a representative of the *Sunday News of London*, which has a circulation in England of five-and-one-half million. The writer came to America for two reasons. The first was to do a feature on Perry and the second was to write his impressions of the royal visit of Prince Charles and Princess Di.

You're seeing the endorsements and the commercials made by Bears' players, but such things and all the other ballyhoo doesn't seem to be knocking them off stride.

Perhaps Bears' broadcaster Wayne Larrivee puts it best. "If disposition wins championships," he reflects, "then this team will win the championship."

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Streak Ends

Continued From Page 3

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN in this loss was another record-setting performance by RB Walter Payton. On the second-to-last play of the contest, he broke the 100-yard rushing barrier for the eighth consecutive game. The previous record of seven was shared by Earl Campbell and O.J. Simpson.

"I loved that as much as anything," said Ditka. "Undoubtedly, he's the finest football player who ever played the game."

"Walter deserves it more than any running back who's ever lived," said OT Jim Covert.

PAYTON, HOWEVER, didn't celebrate the mark.

"What matters is who wins," he said. "We didn't win this time."

While the loss spoils the chance of a perfect season for the Bears, the players agreed there are bigger and better days ahead.

"One game don't make a season," said LB Otis Wilson." We have Indianapolis, the Jets and the Lions coming up. Then we have two playoff games. We're gonna be in New Orleans. We didn't feel any pressure coming into this game. It was fun. Things just didn't work out this time."

"WE HAVE TO TURN a negative into a positive," said WR Willie Gault.

Following a poor punt by Maury Buford (36 yards), the Dolphins began their first scoring drive early in the contest. Marino ended the Bears' shutout streak when he hit Moore with a 36-yard pass to make it 7-0.

On the ensuing drive, the Bears tied the game at seven on a one-yard sneak by Fuller. The drive, which covered 80 yards in four plays, included a 69-yard pass to Gault which got the ball down to the Miami 11.

FOLLOWING A 46-YARD return by Lorenzo Hampton on the ensuing kickoff, the Dolphins began their next scoring drive. Miami made it 10-0 when Faud Reveiz connected on a 47-yard field goal.

A Fuller pass intended for Payton was intercepted by LB Bob Brudzinski and that set up the next Miami score. This time, Marino moved his team 40 yards in eight plays and Ron Davenport scored on a one-yard run to make it 17-7.

On the ensuing drive, the Bears cut the lead to 17-10 when Kevin Butler hit a 30-yard field goal. The 58-yard drive included two passes to TE Emery Moorehead (12 and 9 yards) and a 10-yard toss to Gault.

THE DOLPHINS, HOWEVER, increased the lead to 24-10 when Davenport capped a 79-yard drive with a one-yard touchdown run. Before the half ended, Miami made it 31-10 on a six-yard pass from Marino to Moore. The Dolphins got the ball at the Bear six following a blocked punt by William Judson.

"Our special teams weren't good all day," said Ditka.

The Bear defense came alive in the second half.

CORNERBACK LESLIE Frazier intercepted a Marino pass and returned it 17 yards to the Miami 43 on the opening series of the third quarter. But the Bears gave it back when a Fuller pass, intended for Payton, was picked off by Glenn Blackwood.

The Bears, however, forced another turnover three plays later when CB Mike Richardson knocked the ball away from Clayton after he caught a pass for a first down. Dent recovered it at the Miami 27. Five plays later, Fuller sneaked one yard for a touchdown. That made it 31-17, Miami.

The ensuing kickoff appeared to be a bad onside kick, which was recovered by the Dolphins at the Chicago 46. But that wasn't the designed play.

"IT WAS SUPPOSED to be lobbed down to the 30. He didn't hit it right," said Ditka.

Nevertheless, it gave the Dolphins another chance to score. On the third play of the series, a Marino pass was deflected at the line of scrimmage by DT Dan Hampton. It fell into the arms of Clayton, who then raced untouched into the end zone. The touchdown play, which made it 38-17, covered 42 yards.

The Bears didn't give up. The ensuing drive resulted in a touchdown when Fuller connected with WR Ken Margerum on a 19-yard pass. The drive was set up by a 59-yard kickoff return by Dennis Gentry.

There was still 6:25 to play in the third quarter, but neither team would find the end zone for the rest of the night. McMahon got the Bears as close as the Miami 16 midway through the final quarter but the drive ended when Judson picked off a fourth-down pass in the end zone.

"I hope the Dolphins go as far as we go and we play them again (in the Super Bowl)," said Ditka.

GAME NOTES: The 38 points by the Dolphins are the most the Bears have allowed this season. The previous high was 28 by Tampa Bay on opening day. The Bears had not allowed an opponent to score more than 10 points in the past seven games.... The Bears outgained the Dolphins 343 to 335 yards and had a possession time advantage of nine more minutes.... The Bears have never beaten the Dolphins (0-4) in regular season play and have never won a road game on *Monday Night Football.* Their overall record on *Monday Night Football* is now 5-12. Miami's 16-3 record at home on *Monday Night Football* is second best in the NFL.... The Bears have outrushed 32 of their last 35 opponents.... Before he left with a sprained ankle, Steve Fuller completed 11 of 21 passes for 169 yards and one touchdown. "What did Steve do wrong? He played pretty good," said Ditka.... There were zero no-shows at the Orange Bowl.... WR Dennis McKinnon sustained a pulled muscle.

Back Issues Available

Back issues of all 1985 editions of the **BEAR REPORT** are still available. Each individual copy is $2.00. To order a particular issue (or issues), please send a check or money order in the proper amount to: BEAR REPORT BACK ISSUES, 1271 W. Dundee Rd., 89E, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.

A Bears' Record

A group of 10 Bears players, including QB Jim McMahon, LB Mike Singletary and RB Walter Payton have recorded a song entitled "Super Bowl Shuffle." The record will be released Dec. 11 and all proceeds from the sales of it will go to charity.

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BEAR REPORT welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. BEAR REPORT does not necessarily agree with the views stated in the letters we receive. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Ready For Super Bowl

Dear Doug,

January brings many things.

A new year if hoping this is the year I'll be out of debt — HA-HA!! College bowl games and cold snowy weather here at the top of Illinois. But here, finally after the first 30 years of my life a January to watch, scream and yell for our Chicago Bears and winning the Super Bowl.

There ain't nobody on this earth that deserves the 'Big Ring' on his finger more than Walter Payton cause nobody has or will have the ability to do the things he has done in my opinion.

I've been to at least one game a year for the last 10 years, saw the first victory this year, and also went to Lake Forest last year with my family, and did my son's eyes light up at how big the players were.

All the players are super off the field as they are on the field.

I do believe that Papa Bear is smiling down on the Bears now. Hope to get some playoff tickets somehow, and I still can't wait till January.

Sincerely,
Kim Kopp
Ridott, IL

P.S. The stories Mike Haggerty writes every week are a plus to the already great paper. Keep it up.

Loves the Honey Bears

Dear Doug,

I was deeply saddened to read the Bears are going to get rid of the Honey Bears. Please tell me it isn't so. When I am at Soldier Field, I love to watch the Honeys between plays. What else do we have to do during time outs? I think they are a part of the Bears and you should have articles about them in your paper, like you used to.

Brad Campbell
Springfield, IL

P.S. I would love to see a Honey Bear fan club.

Long Drive To Victory

Dear Editor:

I had been looking forward with anticipation, and great expectation, to the "Big Battle in Dallas."

However, being from the Tampa Bay area meant I would have to suffer through another humiliation of the Buccaneers.

Being originally from Chicago, and an avid Bear fan, I was fortunate that friends of mine invited me over to their place to watch the game, as they have a satellite TV. It meant driving 60 miles, but I didn't care.

Another friend, an avid Cowboy fan, joined me because he too wanted very much to see the game. We had argued for weeks as to why our chosen team was superior. I had hoped the game would be worthy of all our pre-game hype.

As the Bears rolled up the score, I watched with quiet contentment. My friend was constantly reminding me of past second half Cowboy heroics. Being witness to many of the Dallas magic acts, I knew there was truth in what he spoke.

As the game ended, I was stunned. I was hopeful the Bears would win, but 44-ZIP?!

Revenge, how sweet it is!!

Bill Gullick
Largo, FL

Reader Wants Forgiveness

Dear Doug,

I feel that it is my duty to formally apologize to Mike Ditka and the entire Bear team.

It pains me greatly to admit that my inborn Chicago Sports' Fan "Never Say Die" attitude faltered greatly on the morning of Sunday, November 17, 1985.

I was ready for THE GAME. I rushed into my family room carrying our cherished pennant, wearing my Bear shirt, and my father uttered two words. Two words that would cause me to forget all I had learned in 17 years of growing up in a Chicago sports' fan family. Two words that would throw me into an uncontrolled frenzy. They were short, simple and painfully to the point:

"McMAHON'S OUT."

I lost all control. I began sobbing, kicking and screaming. Tears streamed down my face. Yes, I admit it, I shouted in anguish, "We'll NEVER beat Dallas now!!!"

GUYS — I'M SORRY!!!!

I won't make excuses. I only hope that by going public with my huge folly, I will be forgiven.

I should have known that these Bears are a multi-faceted squad that will not be phased by the absence of one player.

Jim McMahon is an EXCELLENT quarterback, but I have certainly learned my lesson:

ONE PLAYER DOES NOT THIS BEAR TEAM MAKE!!!!!

Sincerely,
Ellen Gasparo
Las Vegas, NV

Front Office Deserves Credit

Dear Doug,

I was fortunate to watch the Bears destroy America's team. Not since 1971 had we beaten Dallas, 44-0 and at Dallas should silence all the critics. The Bears are now the premier team in pro football.

I believe the real credit for our Bears' revival should go to the front office. A team is only as good as its front office. The office made a commitment to excellence and stuck by it. Coach Ditka has developed the Bears into a well-oiled machine of winners.

Not enough credit has been given to Matt Suhey and the offensive line. They're the ones who open up the holes for Walter and give McMahon and Fuller time to complete a pass. As great as he is, Walter would not be having the year he is without that line. Suhey runs, blocks and catches well but plays behind the greatest runner. Let's give Matt a big hand!

When Walter announced that 15,000 or 16,000 yards was his career goal, everyone laughed. Now they're all quiet. He just seems to get better and better. I'd like to see anyone (particularly Dorsett and Dickerson) play as well as he does every play after 11 years and all the beatings he's taken.

See y'all in New Orleans!

Sincerely,
Mark L. Rogers
Marietta, GA

A Poor Decision

Dear Editor,

I hope management will stop and take a serious look at their decision to disband the Honey Bears.

It was distasteful to tell them, 'Well now we're winning games. We don't need you now. You're distracting the fans.'

Hey, such a negative view. Football in the fall is competitive football, hot dogs, a stadium, and last but not least, cheerleaders cheering on their team.

All teams have cheerleaders, colleges as well as pros. There are few exceptions.

But the main idea is look at the successful teams year in and year out. They field cheerleaders and don't use a negative outlook on them. After all, they are there to cheer their respective team on. They're not a cheap side show.

If you field a good team you don't have to worry about losing fan interest, and with the team we have, I'm sure we don't have to worry about losing the limelight to the Honey Bears.

In closing, I would like to add that all the teams field cheerleaders. They don't worry about losing fan support to their cheerleaders. So why do we need to? We don't.

If the Bears are going to be a class act and want to be a class act, they should want to have the Honey Bears there on the sidelines at Soldier Field. That's where they belong, on the sidelines cheering on the Bears just like they always have. Now more than ever in Bear history we have a team full of top-notch players. Let's have a team of cheerleaders we can be proud of. Move over Dallas, our Honey Bears are deserving of as much respect as your Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders.

Kip Farmer
Crawfordsville, IN

P.S. Bring back the Honey Bears.

A Convincing Victory

Dear Doug,

How many people believed that the Bears would still be undefeated after 11 games? Their rout of the Cowboys on Nov. 17 convinced a lot of people of what some of the rest of us have been saying all season: the Bears are the BEST team in football this year, period! Some folks were saying that the Bears hadn't played anyone after they beat the Redskins. Others were still saying that after they beat the 49ers. A few will undoubtedly still show their ignorance by saying it now that the Bears shut out the Cowboys. Maybe all minds will be changed after the Bears win Super Bowl XX in January.

The Bears continue to improve in almost all areas. My one area of concern is that the passing attack has been just a bit flat lately. Willie Gault hasn't caught a touchdown pass since game #3, and McKinnon has caught only two for touchdowns since that game. (Although both have definitely made other key catches.) The good news is that the running game is better than ever. So much for the skeptics who said Walter was "over the hill" early in the season! However, I believe that the deep passing threat is something the Bears will need to win the Super Bowl. I hope they can find a way to get it back.

The Bears not dare let up now that they've clinched their division. We want home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. I'm sure they have no intention of letting up though. They have a chance to make history this year by going 19-0!!

One question: Do you people have the word yet on the scheduled starting time for Super Bowl XX in New Orleans? The past few years it has been late in the day. Many football fans are Christians who normally go to church on Sunday evening. It would be great if the NFL took that into consideration and started the Super Bowl earlier in the day.

Sincerely Yours In Christ,
Pastor Greg Carlson
Rockford, IL

Editor's Note: The NFL has scheduled 4 p.m. CST as the kick-off for Super Bowl XX. They like to start the game late in the afternoon because it carries over into Prime Time.

Halas Display At Mid-City National Bank

The Mid-City National Bank of Chicago is currently displaying a unique exhibit entitled, *"My Fondest Memory of George S. Halas."*

This special salute to the man affectionately known as "Papa Bear" is free and open to the public in the lobby of The North Loop Banking Center of The Mid-City National Bank of Chicago, One East Wacker Drive, during regular banking hours, now until Dec. 13.

THIS FASCINATING exhibit follows George S. Halas from his college days at the University of Illinois in 1914 through more than a half-century as the founder, owner and head coach of the Chicago Bears.

Photographs trace Halas' stint as a player with the New York Yankees baseball team, the development of the Decatur Staleys, and the long proud history and legacy of the Chicago Bears.

Highlight of the exhibit are the personal letters from many of Halas' former players and coaches each reminiscing of their *"Fondest Memory of George S. Halas."*

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Dolphins Take Advantage Of Bear Errors

By Wally Gullick
BEAR REPORT Staff

MIAMI, FL — Eleven months ago, the Bear defense was busy establishing itself as the NFL's best, and the challenge of stopping the big play artistry of Dan Marino and his tandem of track star receivers known as the Mark's brothers was an opportunity they were denied courtesy of San Francisco.

This past Monday night, a contest billed as a Super Bowl preview was played in front of a sold out Orange Bowl and a national TV audience. By half time it was clear if a Super Bowl preview was really being produced, then the Bears would be better off going to New Orleans a month later for Mardi Gras, because there would be no Super Bowl partying for the Bears this night.

MAKING THE MOST of poor kickoff coverage, an intercepted and a blocked punt, the Dolphins turned any Bear dreams of an undefeated season into an embarrassing 38-24 nightmare.

RUNNING BACK WALTER Payton (34) fights hard for some of his 121 rushing yards. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Five first half possessions produced four touchdowns and a field goal for the Dolphins, who with wins in eight of their first 12 games, needed this ninth win to keep pace with New York and New England in the AFC East race. The Bears' who have made a habit of putting games on ice by half time, found themselves drowning in Dolphin-infested waters, 31-10 at the intermission.

"It's the best half of football I've seen this team play in quite some time," stated Dolphin head coach Don Shula. Despite knowing he'll have to play the Packers in South Siberia next Sunday, he announced his plans for taking time to savor the victory over the Bears, a club that had posted the most serious threat at upstaging the undefeated record his '72 powerhouse assembled.

ALL THE PRE-GAME hoopla and conversation questioning Dan Marino's ability to have time to exploit his quick release was no longer a debateable issue thanks to help from all phases of the Dolphin units.

Special teams gave him great field position with Lorenzo Hampton setting up the club's second score with a 46-yard kickoff return. He returned three for 91 yards in the contest. William Judson offered the encore performance when he blocked a Maury Buford punt inside the Bear 10. It allowed the Dolphins to post their fourth touchdown with just 1:17 left in the half.

As for avoiding the Bear rush. Marino silenced his critics who bad-mouthed his mobility and kept fullback Woody Bennett in the backfield as a personal body guard to help tame the Bears' quarterback assaults.

"THEY JUST HAVE some great people coming at you all the time so we took advantage of Woody's blocking skills on straight drops, and to further avoid the rush, I rolled out more than I have in the past," noted Marino. He not only produced the big plays with three touchdown passes, but also stung the Bears with first down strikes on third-and-18 and third-and-19 situations.

With Marino taking advantage of his table-setting teammates with field position quarterbacks dream of, the Bears had but one test remaining as they came out for the third quarter: a test of character.

Teams with 12-0 records aren't used to waving white flags and the Bears passed this test by intercepting Marino on the first two second half Miami possessions. But a botched onside kick and a critical unnecessary roughness penalty allowed the Dolphins to ride the crest of the wave their fans were producing.

"IT WAS A VERY emotional game. The crowd was great," said Marino.

"That Bear defense really made things tougher for us in the second half," noted Shula.

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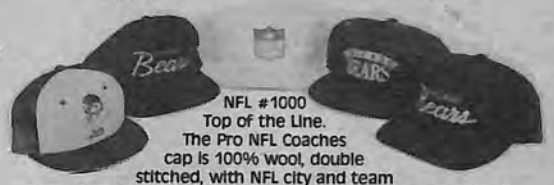

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